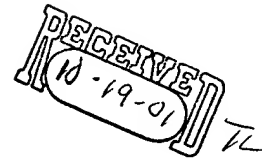


S/N: 09/312,797

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Official

Applicant: Li

Case: SAR 13076

Serial No.: 09/312,797

Filed: May 17, 1999

Group Art Unit: 2613

Examiner: Y Lee

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR GENERIC SCALABLE SHAPE CODING

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Box AF

Washington, D. C. 20231

S I R:

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

This amendment addresses the Final Office Action dated
August 10, 2001 (Paper No. 9).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 27 and 29 as shown below. The claims are "clean version" of the amended claims, i.e., with changes incorporated into the claims, whereas the Appendix to this Amendment illustrates the amended claims using underlines and brackets to indicate addition and deletion, respectively.

1. (Amended) A method for coding an input object mask, where said input object mask has a plurality of regions, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning at least one symbol to each of the plurality of regions;